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17 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: TSS Program for FY - 1953

1. You requested comments from Staff members concerning the proposed TSS R & D program for Fiscal Year 1953. I have reviewed this program in the light of the current and proposed Communications Development Laboratory program and the experience of certain of my staff members who have served with the OSS Development Laboratories during the war years.

2. Historical Data:

Operations of CIA and its parent organization OSS, have demanded almost constant attention to applied research into and development of communications and operational aids devices. Such requirements were met during OSS days by the operation of at least two headquarters laboratories; a laboratory for development of equipment to meet Agency communications and surveillance requirements, and another to handle development of a large variety of operational aids type of equipment, much of which is outlined in the subject program.

The Communications Development Laboratory in CIA and its parent organization has been in continuous operation for the past nine years. Liquidation of OSS occasioned a natural reduction of operational aids development activities, the work being limited largely to photographic processes and equipment. Resumption of OSS type activities dictates revival of the operational aids development program on a par with Communications Development activities in such a manner as to assure well-rounded support in fulfillment of the Agency's technical operational requirements.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations:

a. I concur in re-establishment of the TSS applied research and development laboratory. The diversity of requirements, largely mechanical and chemical in nature, justify laboratory facilities separate and apart from electronics laboratory development work in the communications and surveillance fields.

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b. I concur in Agency sponsorship of a Basic Research program subject to the condition that no attempt be made by the Agency to equip and staff such an activity. The extreme shortage of scientists capable of basic research in widely divergent fields, dictates negotiation of Task contracts with a representative group of Basic Research Organizations under which tasks may be assigned by various offices of the Agency. The Office of Communications has sponsored the nucleus for such a group in the electronics field, namely,

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g. It is recommended that the Comptroller continue, as in the past, coordination of Communications and TSS Budgets in such a manner as to assure elimination of duplicate programs. This may not be necessary if the Audio Support Division is returned to the Office of Communications.

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Assistant Director for Communications

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